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China legalises its LAC transgression

Permits use of weapons against 'illegal crossers'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN what is being read as a direct poke at India with which it is locked in a long stand-off across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, China's legislature filled a legal gap by adopting its first national law to protect and exploit its land border areas.

The Land Border Law that was approved at the legislative session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Saturday, stipulates that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China are sacred and inviolable. Till now, China was committing border aggression with insufficient legislative framework. The new law fills that gap, experts opined.

The law, which becomes operational from January 1 next, says the state shall combat any act that undermines territorial sovereignty and land boundaries. The Chinese military, it says, shall "resolutely prevent, stop and combat invasion, encroachment, provocation and other acts" on its land borders.

It permits the use of weapons against those who illegally cross borders to commit physical assault, resist arrest or engage in other violent activities.

On a comparatively sober note, the law adds that the state shall, following the principle of equality, mutual trust and friendly consultation, handle land border affairs with neighbouring countries through negotiations to properly resolve disputes and longstanding border issues.

Four-day Army conference

A four-day Army Commanders' Conference will begin in Delhi on Monday. It is expected to review all security challenges, including in eastern Ladakh and other sensitive areas along the LAC

"The state shall build basic facilities for blockade, transportation, communication, monitoring, deterrence, defence and assistance when needed. Basic border facilities, apart from defending the country's sovereignty, shall support economic and social development as well protecting natural resources and the environment," it states.

Even before adopting the law, China has been constructing villages close to the LAC and making them part of its border defence infrastructure. While Beijing has land borders with 14 countries, it's only with India and Bhutan that it is yet to sign border accords.

NATIONWIDE	OCT 23	OCT 24
Fresh cases	16,326	15,906
Recoveries	17,677	16,479
Deaths	666	561

KARNATAKA	OCT 23	OCT 24
Fresh cases	371	388
Recoveries	342	586
Deaths	7	5

SRK GOT ₹25-CR BRIBE CALL, CLAIMS WITNESS

Signed on blank papers

Sail claimed that Wankhede made him sign on 10 blank papers while being named as a witness. He also alleged that Gosavi had sought ₹25 crore, but settled for ₹18 crore, of which ₹8 crore was meant for Wankhede

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

A key witness in the cruise drugs case involving Aryan Khan on Sunday alleged that NCB zonal director Sameer Wankhede and others had demanded ₹25-crore bribe from Shah Rukh Khan for his son's release. For his part, Wankhede denied the claims and sought the Mumbai Police's protection from precipitate legal action.

Witness Prabhakar Sail released a video and a notarised affidavit claiming that after Aryan's detention, he overheard a phone conversation between Shah Rukh's manager Pooja Dadlani and K P Gosavi and one Sam D'Souza, demanding ₹25 crore to release Aryan. Sail was in the car as he was Gosavi's bodyguard. It was Gosavi's selfie with Aryan that had gone viral. He is absconding.

Deputy Director General of NCB Mutha Ashok Jain said though Wankhede had denied the claims, some contentions of the affidavit were matters of vigilance probe. The affidavit would be forwarded to NCB's Director-General, Mutha said.

India captain Virat Kohli congratulates Pakistan's Mohammed Rizwan for his team's win in Dubai | AP

An unbroken first-wicket stand between skipper Babar Azam and Mohammed Rizwan took Pakistan to their first-ever victory against India in a men's World Cup (T20 and 50-over format). Chasing 151 runs, they romped home in 17.5 overs without losing a wicket | P13

IN THE FIRST MATCH, SRI LANKA CHASED DOWN BANGLADESH'S 171 WITH FIVE WICKETS IN HAND. ASALANKA TOP-SCORED WITH 80.

CANTER HOME COMFORTABLY

In the past, the rivals have tended to get nervous. Not in Dubai. Both skipper Azam, who made 68, and Rizwan (79), showed uncharacteristic discipline, treated balls on merit and went for calculated big shots.

SHAHEEN'S OPENING BURST

One of the best white-ball bowlers, left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi showed what he's all about removing Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul in successive overs. He came back to remove Kohli to finish with figures of 3/31.

KOHLI'S COUNTER CHARGE

The Indian skipper, never been dismissed before against Pakistan in T20 World Cups, stamped his authority with a straight six against Afridi. His 57 and Rishabh Pant's 39 helped India reach 151/7.

TODAY'S MATCH

Afghanistan vs **Scotland**
(7.30pm in Sharjah)

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Manchester United vs Liverpool

One of the hottest properties in world football, **Mo Salah**, again served notice with a brace and an assist in a sensational first-half burst. Liverpool were four goals to the good at half-time.

Barcelona vs Real Madrid

Shorn of Lionel Messi for the first time in this fixture for more than 15 years, the Catalans struggled after a bright opening. As a result, Real Madrid won 2-1.

Investment tap flowing in J&K: Shah

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Jammu and Kashmir has already drawn an investment of ₹12,000 crore, which would likely reach a total of ₹51,000 crore by 2022-end. Addressing a gathering of BJP workers in Jammu on Day-2 of his visit, Shah assured the region would not be sidelined anymore, but jointly developed with Kashmir.

Taking a swipe at the Abdullah, Mufti and Gandhi families, Shah said *dadagiri* (intimidation) of three families would no longer work in J&K. "When we introduced the new industrial policy, the three families exploiting you mocked us asking who will come and invest here. But due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts, ₹12,000 crore investment has come," he said.

Terming the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A as historic, he said, "Lakhs of citizens got their due rights. Discrimination towards Sikhs, Valmiki Samaj and West Pakistan refugees has ended. "I wished to fulfill Syama Prasad Mukherjee's one country, one law, one leader and one symbol dream. Under Modi's leadership, we can fulfill it," he added. P10

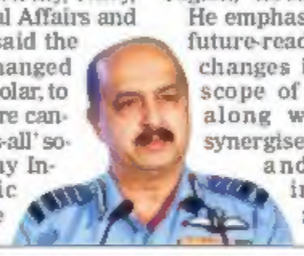
Geopolitical policy can't be dogma, must keep revisiting it: IAF chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN the background of rapidly evolving relations among nations in India's neighbourhood, Air Chief Marshal **VR Chaudhari** on Sunday said India's policy on geopolitical alignment has stood the country in good stead, but it cannot become dogma, and needs to be continuously reexamined and reevaluated with the changing environment.

At the concluding ceremony of the Swarnim Vijay Divas conclave to commemorate the golden jubilee of the India-Pakistan war in 1971, the Indian Air Force chief, citing discussions during the three-day meet attended by senior officers from IAF, Army, Navy, Ministry of External Affairs and strategic experts, said the world order has changed from bipolar to unipolar, to multipolar one. There cannot be a 'one-size-fits-all' solution, which is why India's geostrategic outlook needs to be refined accordingly, he pointed out. "Our vibrant diversity as a nation gives us an inherent flexibility and we must leverage this in making connections across the region," he said.

He emphasised the need to be future-ready to meet dynamic changes in the nature and scope of modern warfare along with the need to synergise planning processes and objectives to increment the net national power. P7



EXPRESS READ

2 die after drinking contaminated water in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA: Two people allegedly died after drinking contaminated water at Yeragal village in Vijayapura district on Sunday. The victims have been identified as Neelamma Benkannavar (65) and Basavaraj Malagi (21). Four others showed symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting, but they are out of danger. Zilla Panchayat officials, however, said, "The two succumbed due to other health issues." P7

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